

**REMARKS**

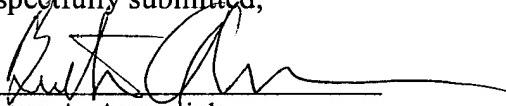
The above amendments to the claims merely remove the multiple dependencies and therefore do not limit the scope of the amended claims. The newly added claims correspond to original claims 4-6 except that their dependency differs. The amendment to the claims and newly added claims do not introduce any new matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any over payment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00311-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Burton A. Americk

Registration No.: 24,852  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036-3425  
(202) 331-7111  
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant